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CLAIMS

1.   A method for treating or ameliorating a condition selected from:

(a) hepatic or cardiac or brain ischemia-reperfusion injury;

(b) pulmonary hypertension; or

(c) cerebral artery vasospasm,

in a subject by decreasing blood pressure and/or increasing vasodilation in the subject, the method comprising administering sodium nitrite to the subject to decrease the blood pressure and/or increase vasodilation in the subject, thereby treating or ameliorating the condition.

2.   The method of claim 1, which is a method for treating or ameliorating hepatic or cardiac or brain ischemia-reperfusion injury.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein administering sodium nitrite to the subject is intravenous.

4.   The method of claim 2 or 3, wherein the sodium nitrite is administered to a circulating concentration of about 0.6 to 240 µM.

5.   The method of claim 1, which is a method for treating or ameliorating pulmonary hypertension.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the pulmonary hypertension is neonatal pulmonary hypertension.

7.   The method of claim 5 or 6, wherein administering sodium nitrite to the subject is by inhalation.

8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the sodium nitrite is nebulized.

9.   The method of any one of claims 5 through 8, wherein the sodium nitrite is administered at a rate of 270 µmol/minute.

10.   The method of claim 1, which is a method for treating or ameliorating cerebral artery vasospasm.

11.   The method of claim 10, wherein administering sodium nitrite to the subject is intravenous.

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12.   The method of claim 10 or 11, wherein the sodium nitrite is administered at a rate of about 45 to 60 mg/kg.

13.   The method of any one of claims 1-12, wherein the sodium nitrite is administered in combination with at least one additional agent.

14.   The method of any one of claims 1-13, wherein the subject is a mammal.

15.   The method of any one of claims 14, wherein the subject is a human.